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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/531,211	BOPPEL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Daniel J. Colilla	2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *15 April 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *41-102* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *41-83 and 85-102* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *84* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *15 April 2005* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *4/15/05; 1/12/06*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, **the angle of the segment of a circle as recited in claims 86-89 must be shown** or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 41 is objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 41, line 13, it appears that "lest" should actually be --least--.

Appropriate correction is required.

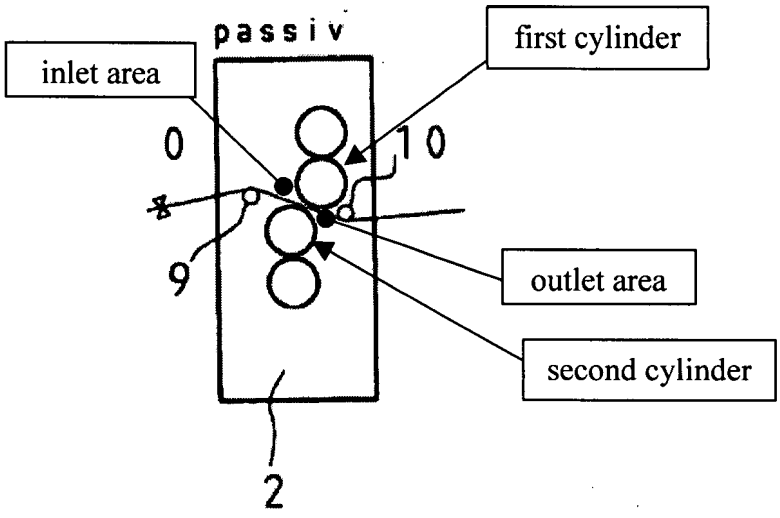
Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 41-56, 65-70, 81-82, 86-87 and 94-99 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zirkon (DE 9311113.4) in view of Takenaka (JP 7-53102).

With respect to claim 41, Zirkon discloses the claimed printing press except for the second guide element including a wall having a plurality of micro-openings. Zirkon discloses a printing press having at least a first printing unit 2 including at least two cylinders defining a printing gap having an inlet area and an outlet area, said at least first printing unit being adapted for imprinter operation wherein in a first operational situation a web is imprinted in said printing gap and in a second operational situation the web is conducted without contact with said at least two cylinders in said printing gap as shown below in the Figure taken from Figure 1a of Zirkon:



The above two cylinders form a gap which the web 8 passes through. The above shows the second operational situation in which the web 8 is conducted without contact with the two cylinders. Zirkon further discloses a first guide element 9 in the inlet area and a second guide element 10 in the outlet area.

Takenaka discloses a guide element 10 for a web in a printing press, the guide element includes a wall having an outer surface with a surface area defining said guide element; and a plurality of outward-directed micro-openings (Takenaka, paragraph [0005], lines 1-3) in said wall, each of said micro-openings having a diameter no greater than 500 μm (Takenaka teaches micro-openings with a diameter of 10-30 μm, paragraph [0005], lines 1-3). Takenaka is silent on the a density of said micro-openings per unit of said surface area. However, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been able to select the optimal micro-openings per unit of surface area through obvious routine experimentation. Additionally, the micro-openings are adapted for exit of fluid under pressure (Takenaka, paragraph [0005], lines 7-15). It would have been obvious to use the guide element of Takenaka as the second guide element in the printing press disclosed by

Zirkon for the advantage of the guide which prevents contact of the printed web with the guide (Takenaka, paragraph [0006]) and thus without smearing the printed surface of the web.

With respect to claim 42, Zirkon discloses printing press including at least a first printing 2 unit including at least two cylinders defining a printing gap having an inlet area and an outlet area (see above Figure), said at least first printing unit 2 being adapted for imprinter operation wherein in a first operational situation a web is imprinted in said printing gap and in a second operation situation the web is conducted without contact with said at least two cylinders in said printing gap (as shown in the above Figure). Zirkon further discloses a first guide element 9 in said inlet area and a second guide element 10 in said outlet area. Zirkon does not discloses a load bearing, at least partially fluid-permeable support forming said at least second guide element.

However, Takenaka discloses a load bearing, at least partially fluid-permeable support forming a guide element 10 (Takenaka, paragraph [0005]). The outer layer of the guide element is constituted as a micro-porous, air-permeable material having a plurality of micro-openings in at least an outlet area of the guide element adapted to be contacted by a web as shown in Figure 1 of Takenaka and disclosed in paragraphs [0005]-[0006]. Furthermore, the guide element taught by Takenaka is in the form of a rod around which air flows (Takenaka, paragraph [0005], lines 1-3). It would have been obvious to use the guide element taught by Takenaka as the second guide element in the printing press disclosed by Zirkon for the advantage of the guide which prevents contact of the printed web with the guide (Takenaka, paragraph [0006]) and thus without smearing the printed surface of the web.

With respect to claims 43-44, both Zirkon and Takenaka disclose a guide element with a circular profile as shown in Figure 1a of Zirkon and Figure 1 of Takenaka.

With respect to claims 45-48, the guide element taught by Takenaka has a web-facing side having a cross-sectional profile in the shape of a segment of a circle.

With respect to claim 49, the outer layer of the guide element taught by Takenaka has a plurality of micro-openings adapted for the exit of fluid under pressure in which each micro-openings has a diameter no greater than 500 μm (Takenaka teaches micro-openings with a diameter of 10-30 μm, paragraph [0005], lines 1-3).

With respect to claim 50, Takenaka teaches that the micro-openings are open pores of a porous material (Takenaka, paragraph [0005], lines 5-7, "a roll bar can be manufactured. . . [by] pressurizing and heating a powdered metal and sintering it.")

With respect to claims 51-54, as mentioned above, Takenaka teaches pores with a diameter of 10-30 μm, thus the mean diameter of the pores would have to be between 5 to 50 μm or 10 to 30 μm.

With respect to claim 55-56, Takenaka teaches that the micro-openings are open pores of a sintered material (Takenaka, paragraph [0005], lines 5-7, "a roll bar can be manufactured. . . [by] pressurizing and heating a powdered metal and sintering it.")

With respect to claim 65, as mentioned above, Takenaka teaches pores with a diameter of 10-30 μm.

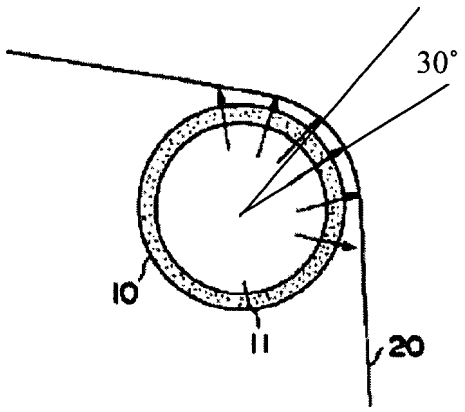
With respect to claim 66, Takenaka is silent on the thickness of the support wall. However, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been able to determine an optimal wall thickness through obvious routine experimentation. It is a known advantage that a thicker wall will provide a stronger wall, but a thinner wall uses less material and would create a lighter wall.

With respect to claims 67-70, Takenaka is silent on the amount of airflow of the guide element. However, the optimal amount of airflow could have readily been determined by one of ordinary skill in the art through obvious, routine experimentation.

With respect to claims 81 and 82, Takenaka teaches that the fluid under pressure is air.

With respect to claims 86-87, Takenaka teaches a segment of a circle extends over an angle of between 10° and 45° as shown below in the Figure taken from Takenaka:

【図１】



It is noted that the circle also extends additional segments of the circle.

With respect to claims 94-95, Zirkon discloses a second printing unit 1 that can operate in two modes. In the first mode, second printing unit is in contact and printing the web 8 while the first printing unit 2 is in a non-contact position not printing the web as shown in Figure 1a of Zirkon. A second mode is shown in Figure 1b in which the second printing unit 1 is in a non-contact position not printing or touching the web while the first printing unit 2 is printing the web8.

With respect to claim 96-97, although Zirkon only discloses three printing units through which the web 8 is conducted, it would have been obvious to provide additional units of the same printing units for providing the same function of printing. It has been held that the mere duplication of parts has no patentable significance unless a new and unexpected result is produced (see MPEP§ 2144.04, part VI, B). In this instance, there has been no unexpected result disclosed the additional printing units simply provide additional printing.

With respect to claims 98-99, since these claims are drawn to an apparatus, method steps of how the apparatus are made are only given patentable weight if they result in structural differences with respect to the prior art. In this case, there do not appear to be any structural differences. Thus, Zirkon in view of Takenaka teach the claimed invention.

5. Claims 41-42 and 45-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meitinger *et al.* (DE 20303720) in view of Takenaka (JP 7-53102).

With respect to claim 41, Meitinger *et al.* disclose the claimed printing press except that they are silent on the diameter of micro-openings and density of micro-openings per unit of surface area. Meitinger *et al.* discloses a printing press having at least a first printing unit including at least two cylinders 21 and 22 defining a printing gap having an inlet area and an outlet area, said at least first printing unit being adapted for imprinter operation wherein in a first operational situation a web is imprinted in said printing gap and in a second operational situation the web is conducted without contact with said at least two cylinders in said printing gap as shown below in the Figure taken from Figure 2 of Meitinger *et al.*:

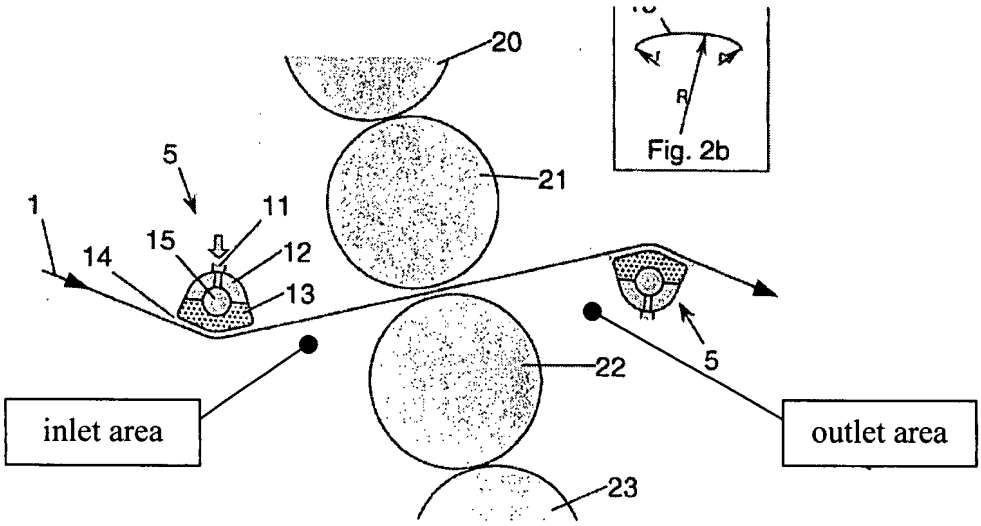


Fig. 2

The above cylinders 21 and 22 form a gap which the web 1 passes through. The above shows the second operational situation in which the web 1 is conducted without contact with the two cylinders. Meitinger *et al.* further discloses a first guide element 5 in the inlet area and a second guide element 5 in the outlet area. A wall 13 of the second guide element 5 includes an outer surface having a surface area defining the guide element and a plurality of outward-directed openings in the wall are adapted for the exit of a fluid under pressure as taught in the abstract of Meitinger *et al.*

Takenaka discloses a guide element 10 for a web in a printing press, the guide element includes a wall having an outer surface with a surface area defining said guide element; and a plurality of outward-directed micro-openings (Takenaka, paragraph [0005], lines 1-3) in said wall, each of said micro-openings having a diameter no greater than 500 μm (Takenaka teaches micro-openings with a diameter of 10-30 μm, paragraph [0005], lines 1-3). Takenaka is silent on the a density of said micro-openings per unit of said surface area. However, one of ordinary skill

in the art would have been able to select the optimal micro-openings per unit of surface area through obvious routine experimentation. Additionally, the micro-openings are adapted for exit of fluid under pressure (Takenaka, paragraph [0005], lines 7-15). It would have been obvious to use the this teaching of Takenaka in the printing press disclosed by Meitinger *et al.* for the advantage of the heating of the air blown through the guide element to further dry the web as it passes over the guide element (Takenaka, paragraph [0005], lines 9-12).

With respect to claim 42, Meitinger *et al.* discloses printing press including at least a first printing unit including at least two cylinders 21 and 22 defining a printing gap having an inlet area and an outlet area (see above Figure), said at least first printing unit being adapted for imprinter operation wherein in a first operational situation a web 1 is imprinted in said printing gap and in a second operation situation the web is conducted without contact with said at least two cylinders in said printing gap (as shown in the above Figure). Meitinger *et al.* further discloses a first guide element 5 in said inlet area and a second guide element 5 in said outlet area. Meitinger *et al.* discloses a load bearing, at least partially fluid-permeable support forming said at least second guide element 5. The outer layer 13 having a plurality of pores and being adapted to be contacted by the web, the second guide element 5 being formed as a rod around which air flows. Meitinger *et al.* is silent on whether the pores of the layer 13 are micro-openings.

However, Takenaka discloses a load bearing, at least partially fluid-permeable support forming a guide element 10 (Takenaka, paragraph [0005]). The outer layer of the guide element is constituted as a micro-porous, air-permeable material having a plurality of micro-openings in at least an outlet area of the guide element adapted to be contacted by a web as shown in Figure 1

of Takenaka and disclosed in paragraphs [0005]-[0006]. Furthermore, the guide element taught by Takenaka is in the form of a rod around which air flows (Takenaka, paragraph [0005], lines 1-3). It would have been obvious to use this teaching of Takenaka in the printing press disclosed by Meitinger *et al.* for the advantage of the heating of the air blown through the guide element to further dry the web as it passes over the guide element (Takenaka, paragraph [0005], lines 9-12).

With respect to claims 45 and 46, Meitinger *et al.* teaches that the guide elements 5 have a half-shell cross-section profile as shown in Figure 2 of Meitinger *et al.*

6. Claims 42, 57, 59-61 and 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zirkon (DE 9311113.4) in view of Liedtke (US 5,423,468).

With respect to claim 42, Zirkon discloses printing press including at least a first printing 2 unit including at least two cylinders defining a printing gap having an inlet area and an outlet area (see above Figure), said at least first printing unit 2 being adapted for imprinter operation wherein in a first operational situation a web is imprinted in said printing gap and in a second operation situation the web is conducted without contact with said at least two cylinders in said printing gap (as shown in the above Figure). Zirkon further discloses a first guide element 9 in said inlet area and a second guide element 10 in said outlet area. Zirkon does not discloses a load bearing, at least partially fluid-permeable support forming said at least second guide element.

However, Liedtke discloses a load bearing, at least partially fluid-permeable support 14 forming a guide element. The outer layer 40 of the guide element is constituted as a micro-porous, air-permeable material having a plurality of micro-openings in at least an outlet area of the guide element adapted to be contacted by a web 12 as shown in Figure 3 of Liedtke and

disclosed in col. 4, lines 35-42 of Liedtke. Furthermore, the guide element taught by Liedtke is in the form of a rod around which air flows (Liedtke, col. 3, lines 16-21). It would have been obvious to use the guide element taught by Liedtke as the second guide element in the printing press disclosed by Zirkon for the advantage of the guide which prevents contact of the printed web with the guide and thus without smearing the printed surface of the web (Liedtke, col. 1, lines 27-41).

With respect to claim 57, Liedtke teaches a support face (outer surface of support 14) supporting the outer layer 40; the support face having a plurality of openings 18 as shown in Figures 1-3.

With respect to claim 59, the support 14 has a plurality of unconnected passages 19 underlying the outer layer 40 as shown in Figures 1-3 of Liedtke.

With respect to claim 60, the support 14 is a tube with a hollow profile as shown in Figures 1-3 of Liedtke.

With respect to claim 61, Liedtke teaches that the support 14 has a wall that carries the outer layer 40 and has a profile with a curvature adapted to path of travel of the web as shown in Figure 3 of Liedtke.

With respect to claim 63, Liedtke is silent on the thickness of the wall of support 14. However, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been able to determine an optimal wall thickness through obvious routine experimentation. It is a known advantage that a thicker wall will provide a stronger wall. Liedtke teaches that the support can be made of steel (col. 3, lines 28-32). A 3 mm thick support wall. would not be very rigid, thus making a support wall thicker would create a stronger more rigid wall.

7. Claims 42, 58 and 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zirkon (DE 9311113.4) in view of Polkinghorne (US 6,364,247).

With respect to claim 42, Zirkon discloses printing press including at least a first printing 2 unit including at least two cylinders defining a printing gap having an inlet area and an outlet area (see above Figure), said at least first printing unit 2 being adapted for imprinter operation wherein in a first operational situation a web is imprinted in said printing gap and in a second operation situation the web is conducted without contact with said at least two cylinders in said printing gap (as shown in the above Figure). Zirkon further discloses a first guide element 9 in said inlet area and a second guide element 10 in said outlet area. Zirkon does not discloses a load bearing, at least partially fluid-permeable support forming said at least second guide element.

However, Polkinghorne discloses a load bearing, at least partially fluid-permeable support 146 forming a guide element. The outer layer 132 of the guide element is constituted as a micro-porous, air-permeable material having a plurality of micro-openings in at least an outlet area of the guide element adapted to be contacted by a web 116 as shown in Figure 3 of Polkinghorne and disclosed in col. 3, lines 54-63 of Polkinghorne. Furthermore, the guide element taught by Polkinghorne is in the form of a rod around which air flows (Polkinghorne, col. 3, lines 47-53). It would have been obvious to use the guide element taught by Polkinghorne as the second guide element in the printing press disclosed by Zirkon for the advantage of the guide which prevents contact of the printed web with the guide and thus without smearing the printed surface of the web.

With respect to claim 58, Polkinghorne teaches that the thickness of the outer layer 132 is 0.002 inches which is 0.0508 mm (col. 3. lines 64-65).

With respect to claim 64, Polkinghorne is silent on the percentage of micro-openings in the outlet area. However, as Polkinghorne teaches in col. 3, lines 3-12, that the size of the openings in the outer layer (and thus the percentage of the outer area that the openings constitute) can be changed according to the needs of several variables. Thus one of ordinary skill in the art would have readily been able to determine the optimal opening percentage of the outlet area through obvious, routine experimentation.

8. Claims 62, 88, 92 and 93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zirkon (DE 9311113.4) in view of Liedtke (US 5,423,468), as applied to claim 42 above, and further in view of Long *et al.* (US 5,979,731).

With respect to claim 62, Zirkon in view of Liedtke discloses the claimed printing press except that Liedtke teaches a curved wall with a profile in the shape of an entire circle. However, Long *et al.* teaches a guide element with a porous curved wall 19 with a profile in the shape of a segment of a circle as shown in Figures 1 and 2 of Long *et al.* (Long *et al.*, col. 3, lines 66-67 and col. 4, lines 5-8). It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Long *et al.* with the printing press disclosed by Zirkon in view of Liedtke for the advantage of saving energy in the pressurization of the gas by only jetting pressurized gas through the portion of the support that is adjacent the web that is being guided.

With respect to claim 88, Liedtke teaches that the segment of the circle extends over an angle of between 10° and 45° as shown below in the Figure taken from Liedtke:

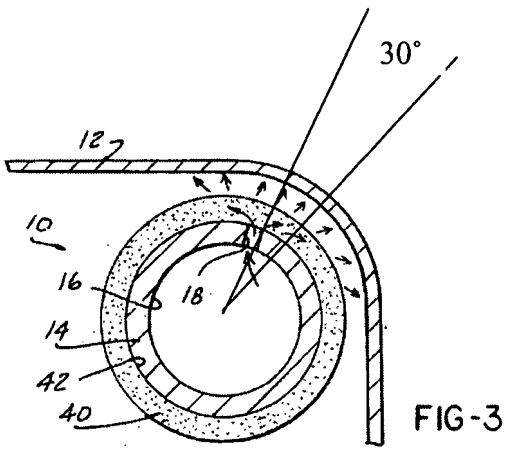


FIG-3

It is noted that the angle also extends over additional segments of the circle.

With respect to claims 92 and 93, Long *et al.* teaches a guide element that can have a radius between 50 mm and 25 mm (equal to width of 100 mm and 50 mm) (Long *et al.*, col. 2, lines 62-65).

9. Claims 71-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zirkon (DE 9311113.4) in view of Takenaka (JP 7-53102), as applied to claims 42 and 50 above, and further in view of Holtmann *et al.* (US 6,635,111).

With respect to claims 71-72, Zirkon in view of Takenaka discloses the claimed printing press except that Takenaka is silent on the amount of pressure used in the guide element. However, Holtmann *et al.* teaches using a pressure of "a few bars" in a guide element for a web (Holtmann *et al.*, col. 3, lines 27-29). It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Holtmann *et al.* with the printing press disclosed by Zirkon in view of Takenaka for the advantage of the material used in the porous wall which has nondirectionally distributed open

pores that form branching passages through the material resulting in gaseous fluid that lows very uniformly through the walls. In addition the material is of stable shape and is easy to work (Holtmann *et al.*, col. 2, lines 1-8).

With respect to claims 73-74, it is believed that "a few bars" can also mean at least 4 bar as recited by applicant. In the case that it does not, it would have been obvious through obvious, routine experimentation to determine the exact optimal pressure. For example, one may increase the bars to handle a heavier or stiffer web.

10. Claims 75-76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zirkon (DE 9311113.4) in view of Takenaka (JP 7-53102), as applied to claims 41 and 49 above, and further in view of Thomas (US 6,402,047).

With respect to claims 75-76, Zirkon in view of Takenaka discloses the claimed printing press except that Takenaka is silent on whether there is a feed line adapted to feed fluid to the second guide element. However, Thomas teaches a feed line 16 for feeding compressed air to a device; the feed line having a diameter of 3/8" (which is approximately 9.5 mm) (Thomas, col. 3, lines 69-71). While it may not be clear if this is an interior or exterior diameter, either way the interior diameter is less than 100 mm. It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Thomas with the printing press disclosed by Zirkon in view of Takenaka because Thomas indicates that this diameter is a standard size (Thomas, col. 3, lines 69-71).

11. Claims 77-78 and 90-91 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zirkon (DE 9311113.4) in view of Takenaka (JP 7-53102), as applied to claims 41, 47, 48 and 49 above, and further in view of Long *et al.* (US 5,979,731).

With respect to claims 77-78, Zirkon in view of Takenaka discloses the claimed printing press except that Takenaka is silent on the exterior diameter of the guide element. However, Long *et al.* teaches a guide element with a diameter of less than 50 mm radius which is 100 mm diameter (Long *et al.*, col. 4. lines 31-34). It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Long *et al.* with the printing press disclosed by Zirkon in view of Takenaka for the advantage of saving energy in the pressurization of the gas by only jetting pressurized gas through the portion of the support that is adjacent the web that is being guided.

With respect to claims 90-91, Long *et al.* teaches a guide element that can have a radius between 50 mm and 25 mm (100 mm and 50 mm diameter) (Long *et al.*, col. 2, lines 62-65).

12. Claims 79-80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zirkon (DE 9311113.4) in view of Takenaka (JP 7-53102), as applied to claims 41 and 49 above, and further in view of Wittkopf *et al.* (US 4,361,089).

With respect to claims 79 and 80, Takenaka is silent on the length of the guide element. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to match the length of the guide element to the width of the web being printed in order to support the entire web. Additionally, Wittkopf *et al.* teaches a web of standard length that is 60-120 inches (approx. 1524-3048 mm) in width (Wittkopf *et al.*, col. 3, lines 29-30). Clearly it would have been

obvious to print a standard width web in the printing press disclosed by Zirkon in view of Takenaka.

13. Claims 83, 85 and 89 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zirkon (DE 9311113.4) in view of Takenaka (JP 7-53102), as applied to claim 41 above, and further in view of Greiner (US 3,744,693).

With respect to claim 83, Zirkon in view of Takenaka discloses the claimed printing press except for the releasable insert on a support defined by the wall. However, Greiner teaches a support defined by a wall 8 which holds a releasable insert 3 as shown in Figure 6 of Greiner. It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Greiner with the printing press disclosed by Zirkon in view of Takenaka for the advantage of being able to replace a portion of the guide element in case it gets soiled by ink (Greiner, col. 1, lines 39-48).

With respect to claim 85, Greiner teaches a wall 8 that has a profile in the shame of a segment of a wall. It appears that a wall will always have a shape of a wall or a segment of a wall.

With respect to claim 89, this claim is rejected for the same reasons as applied to claim 86 above.

14. Claims 100-102 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zirkon (DE 9311113.4) in view of Takenaka (JP 7-53102), as applied to claim 41 above, and further in view of Boucher (US 6,705,220).

Zirkon in view of Takenaka discloses the claimed printing press except for the dir and ink repelling coating on the surface area of the second guide element. However, Boucher teaches

guide elements 2 and 4 that guide webs assisted by air and have a polished, chromium surface (Boucher, col. 6, lines 63-65). It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Boucher with the printing press disclosed by Zirkon in view of Takenaka for the advantage of the reduced friction of the guide element which therefore reduces marking of the freshly printed paper webs (Boucher, col. 1, lines 20-24).

Allowable Subject Matter

15. Claim 84 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

16. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claim 84 has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter primarily for the wall that has a profile which is matched to a path of travel of the web; the wall supporting an insert.

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel J. Colilla whose telephone number is 571-272-2157. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached at 571-272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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August 14, 2007

Daniel J. Colilla
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854